

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1572

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: US/GDR RELATIONS

REF: STATE 249369

SUMMARY

THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO A REQUEST FOR THE EMBASSY'S
VIEWS CONCERNING REASONS THE GDR MAY HAVE FOR
PROPOSING A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT, IN THIS CASE THAT OF
HERMANN AXEN, TO THE US ALONG WITH OUR IDEAS OF TOPICS
THAT AMBASSADOR SIEBER MAY RAISE DURING HIS CALL ON THE
SECRETARY, A CALL SOUGHT IN ORDER TO PRESENT GDR PROPOSALS
ON FURTHER WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
END SUMMARY

1. A FEW DAYS AGO I HAD AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH
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HERBERT KROLIKOWSKI, THE SENIOR VICE FOREIGN MINISTER

OF THE GDR. KROLIKOWSKI TOLD ME THAT AMBASSADOR SIEBER WOULD SOON BE SEEING SECRETARY KISSINGER.

2. I ASKED WHETHER AXEN WAS PLANNING TO VISIT THE US AND KROLIKOWSKI RESPONDED THAT HE EXPECTED TO DO SO IN 1976 IN HIS ROLE AS A "PARLIAMENTARIAN." (COMMENT:HAXEN IS A MEMBER OF THE VOLSKAMMER AND CHAIRMAN OF ITS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.) KROLIKOWSKI SAID THE PROPOSED VISIT GREW OUT OF A CONVERSATION OF MORE THAN AN HOUR'S DURATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER OVER DINNER IN HELSINKI. AXEN HAS DESCRIBED THIS CONVERSATION AS COMPREHENSIVE AND VIEWS HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US AS IMPORTANT. IT THEREFORE SEEMS LIKELY THAT SIEBER WILL ALLUDE TO A VISIT BY AXEN, WHO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LIKE TO CONTINUE HIS DIALOGUE WITH THE SECRETARY. WITH CSCE AND THE SOVIET-GDR TREATY BEHIND THEM, THE GDR REGIME MAY CONSIDER THIS THE PROPER TIME TO ATTEND TO RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, IN THIS INSTANCE BY SEEKING MORE DIRECT CONTACT FOR THEIR TOP FOREIGN POLICY MAN WITH THE US LEADERSHIP. GDR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN DEVELOPING CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS; IF AXEN GOES TO WASHINGTON AS A PARLIAMENTARIAN, HE WILL HAVE A GOOD ENTREE TO THE HILL AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVE.

3. AS TO OTHER TOPICS IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, SIEBER MAY TOUCH UPON THE IMPENDING VISIT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL, WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS FOR BEIL AT HIGH LEVELS OF THE USG. MY VIEW IS THAT OUR TREATMENT OF BEIL SHOULD BE CORRECT AND COURTEOUS, BUT THAT HIS CALLS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO OFFICIALS OF COMPARABLE RANK WITHIN THE USG.

4. SIEBER MIGHT ALSO WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE ENTRY OF GDR VESSELS INTO US PORTS; USE OF GDR BOTTOMS TO TRANSPORT GRAIN AND FOODSTUFFS FROM THE US; PARCEL POST NEGOTIATIONS; FISHERIES AND PENDING LEGISLATION ON LOS MATTERS IN THE CONGRESS, THE ESTABLISHMENT, PERHAPS NEXT YEAR, OF A TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK; AND HE MAY EXPRESS INTEREST IN A CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

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5. THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS SHOULD NOT ONLY ADDRESS CURRENT ISSUES IN US/GDR RELATIONS, BUT SHOULD ALSO REFLECT OUR OWN VIEWS ON HOW RELATIONS CAN EVOLVE. THE SECRETARY, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD UNDERLINE US INTEREST IN THE PROMPT RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES. PROGRESS IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN INEXCUSABLY SLOW SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN CASES SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED. THE SECRETARY

SHOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THAT THE US WILL NOT INCLUDE A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN A CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR. IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO REFER TO US INTEREST IN RESOLVING JEWISH CLAIMS. THE SECRETARY COULD PROVIDE HIS VIEWS ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE US/GDR CONTEXT (SEPTEL). THE SECRETARY MIGHT ALSO REFER TO THE PROBLEM OF GDR USE OF RIAS FREQUENCIES AND GDR JAMMING OF RIAS, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF CURRENT TALKS IN GENEVA.

6. ON THE ISSUE OF NON-JEWISH CLAIMS, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT PRACTICAL TO SUGGEST THAT THESE CLAIMS BE SETTLED PRIOR TO OTHER ADVANCES IN US/GDR RELATIONS, AS PROPOSED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY GUIDELINES FOR THE EMBASSY DURING THE COMING YEAR. IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO SETTLE THESE CLAIMS AND THE FIRST STEP OF PREPARING CLAIMS CONTINUES TO BE A US RESPONSIBILITY.

7. I BELIEVE THAT SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SIEBER COMES AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AND COULD, ASSUMING A NUMBER OF THE TOPICS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE DISCUSSED, BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS.

8. AFTER THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH SIEBER, I SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-ON MEASURES WITH GDR OFFICIALS, AND TO TALK ABOUT CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF HUMANITARIAN CASES. I THINK IT BETTER THAT I DO NOT MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GDR ON CSCE UNTIL AFTER THE SECRETARY'S TALK WITH SIEBER, IN ORDER THAT OUR INTEREST IN IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE FURTHER UNDERLINED AFTER THE SECRETARY'S MEETING. I INTEND TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER TO DISCUSS WITH HIM, IN LIGHT OF THE SECRETARY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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TALK AND THE POLICY GUIDELINES, THE ABOVE SUBJECTS AND SUCH OTHER AS MAY EVOLVE FROM THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SIEBER.COOPER

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